



Michigan State Police

Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division

Informational Bulletin

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Modifications to Michigan's Professional Emergency Manager (PEM) Program

The Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) is implementing modifications to the PEM program, effective in April 2013. The PEM program was the first of its kind in the United States when it was created in 1990. Since then, the program has largely remained the same, while the landscape of emergency management has changed around it.

Many of the required PEM courses have become redundant of online courses offered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which is feedback frequently received in PEM course student evaluations. Modifying the PEM program is imperative as there continues to be high demands placed on emergency managers in Michigan while coupled with severe budget constraints.

Certification by International Association of Emergency Managers

Currently a "stand alone" program, the PEM will transition to a "next-level" designation, which will be in addition to and goes beyond, the certification program established by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). The PEM program modifications will eliminate duplication, strengthen the value of the PEM designation, and further professionalize emergency management in the state of Michigan.

The IAEM program for the Certified Emergency Manager (CEM[®]) designation goes well beyond the Michigan PEM program in requiring professional contributions, three years of experience, proven knowledge, skills, and ability, as well as a four year college degree from an accredited university¹. Whereas, the IAEM Associate Emergency Manager (AEM_{SM}) credential is comparable to the CEM, but does not require a college degree, professional contributions, or experience. The CEM[®]/AEM_{SM} certifications both have the added benefit of being internationally recognized, whereas the PEM is only recognized in the state of Michigan.

Michigan Core Emergency Management Knowledge Requirements

Effective in April 2013, the PEM designation will only be awarded following completion of the CEM[®] or AEM_{SM} certification, as well as the new PEM training requirement called the Michigan Core Emergency Management Knowledge Requirements (MI-CEMKR). The MI-CEMKR may be completed during the process of obtaining either of the IAEM certifications.

In accordance with Michigan Public Act 390, the MSP/EMHSD is required to provide for the professionalization of emergency managers in Michigan by means of training. Accordingly, the PEM program will transition to focus on Michigan-specific information needed by emergency management personnel in Michigan.

The MI-CEMKR will include modules on Public Act 390, the Michigan Emergency Management Plan, the Michigan Hazard Analysis, and other Michigan emergency management essentials. The pilot for this series of modules is scheduled to be available by May 2013.

Beginning in April 2013, the PEM program will be fully-transitioned to the new MI-CEMKR system. Many of the current PEM courses will continue to be offered based on demand.

¹ Requirements for the CEM[®]/AEM_{SM} certifications can be found at <http://www.iaem.com/certification/generalinfo/intro.htm>.

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Transition

Individuals who are currently a PEM will retain their PEM designation and will not be required to obtain the CEM[®]/AEMSM certification. Under the new program, the PEM maintenance process will change. Effective immediately, current PEMs no longer need to submit the Annual Training Form (ATF) and documentation indicating they have completed the required 24 hours of training. Beginning in September 2013, the ATF will be replaced with an annual online refresher accompanied by an online quiz, which PEMs will need to complete to maintain their status.

Completing current PEM program

Individuals currently in the process of obtaining their PEM designation will have until March 31, 2013, to complete their PEM designation under the current system. Individuals seeking to complete their PEM will not be required to complete all required PEM courses before taking the final PEM exam, which will be offered on January 17, 2013, and March 27, 2013. All PEM course materials will be posted online at www.michigan.gov/emhsd-training to assist individuals in preparing for the PEM exam.

Further Information

A list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) is attached with additional information and is also available on the MSP/EMHSD Web site at www.michigan.gov/emhsd.

Should you have questions concerning this initiative, please contact Ms. Carol Wolfinger at (517) 636-0734 or via e-mail at WolfingerC1@michigan.gov.